

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

41-2574

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14 of the Texas Constitution, I, Ann W. Richards, Governor of Texas, do hereby veto H.B. 1019 because of the following objections:

This bill amends the Texas Education Code to allow children 6 years of age after September 1 and before January 1 of the same school year to enroll in the first grade upon request of the parents and consent of the district; further, it allows children 5 years of age after September 1 and before January 1 of the same school year to enroll in kindergarten upon request of the parents and consent of the district. It also exempts high school students younger than 17 years of age from compulsory school attendance if they have received a diploma or a GED certificate.

Although the original intent of the bill was to clean up the compulsory school attendance law as it relates to graduation, a floor amendment added the problematic language affecting entrance requirements. This amendment places an undue administrative and financial burden on local school districts. Districts will have to determine which children are ready to attend first grade and will then have to raise the additional funds to educate them. Given the escalating costs of providing a basic education for the current population of school age children in the state, it is not in the best interest of schools to create an unexpected increase in their student population by changing the age requirements.

The Secretary of State will take notice of this action and will notify the members of the Legislature.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 20 day of June, 1993.



Ann W. Richards
Ann W. Richards
Governor of Texas

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

10:10 p.m. O'CLOCK

JUN 20 1993

John Hannaford Jr.
Secretary of State